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Validity Study of NIE 11-7-55:

Soviet Gross Capabilities for Attack on the US
and Key Overseas Installations and Forces

Through 1 July 1958,

published 23 June 1955

From a strictly intelligence standpoint, we are unable to test the validity of most of the specific estimates made in NIE 11-7-55. On the other hand, such evidence as we have concerning the Soviet long-range bomber and air base development programs tends to confirm the general trends indicated in that estimate, and no important evidence has appeared to invalidate any of its major conclusions. However, new intelligence on such Soviet weapons programs as guided missiles and submarines suggests that the USSR might give greater emphasis to those weapons systems in initial attacks on US and key US overseas installations and forces, even though it would still rely primarily on manned bombers through mid-1958. This new evidence has been taken into account in the preparation of NIE 11-56, and is especially reflected in our estimate of Soviet capabilities for the latter part of the period covered by the new estimate.

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